

	STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2019 @ 7 PM	
	Councillors' Present: Bob Wilkin (BW), Mark Poyner (MP) arrived 7.15pm, Geoff Shute (GS), Chrys Smith (CS), Alan Wright (AW). Also, in attendance: Mo Rashid Lynne Smith (arrived 7.25pm) Ward Councillor Eddie Perry (EP). 8 members of public Julie Cooper (Clerk)	
1.	Apologies for absence. Kevin Collins.	
2.	Co-Option of Councillors. Election process now complete, two new Councillors duly Elected.	
3.	Acceptance of Office. Both Councillors signed their 'Acceptance of Office' and countersigned by The Clerk.	
4.	Declaration of Interest. (Personal and / or Prejudicial) Item 8 - School crossing site– CS & Clerk.	
5.	Public question time. a) Tony Goodeve - Alerted to power cuts advised to some properties as intermittent which in fact turned into a full 8 hours last week. Mike Dowd advised that a 'bus' serving hot drinks, soup and hot water was available but not sufficiently advertised. The PC will investigate the circumstances and respond accordingly. LS added that she was given correct information in advance by UK Power, including a contact number should the household contain any vulnerable people. b) Tony Goodeve - Any ideas when telephone mast will be installed. MP advised possibly have a more positive update by end of October, looking at shortlist of 4 sites with others available. For information, it will not be located on the previously considered site on Common Road.	
6.	To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 2nd September 2019. a) The minutes were approved as a correct record following two alterations, as follows: Item 5, first word, spelling amended from 'Leiesa' to 'Liesa' and Item 10, second line, wording amended from 'CBC will not...' to 'CBC may not...' b) Matters Arising therefrom: All addressed within portfolio holder reports.	
7.	Matters for the Central Bedfordshire Councillors. a) EP extended his Congratulations to new Councillors. b) CBC reminds residents that public are welcome to attend meetings which are also webcast. c) Noted that a recent T&PC meeting not attended by Studham but another coming up 13th November. d) Grant funding, a poster from EP handed to Clerk to promote applications. Decisions will be made around Christmas time. e) Community asset grant £25K – more information to follow, EP suggests possibly available for V. Hall. f) CBC trading standards backing grass root scheme against scams. g) New Library in Dunstable really good, 'Ancestry UK' available free of charge. A workshop will be held at 12 noon on 11th October providing more information. h) BW requested more information about 'New Homes Grant'. CBC have monies unspent and more due although CBC expects it to reduce. Studham has not been responsible for CBC accruing this funding but is interested to know CBC policy in how such funding is allocated and spent. CBC policy is that such funding will be spent across the county as a whole with no portion allocated specifically to the parish / town which accrued it. Decision made by executive committee for it to be spent in this way. EP and I member of the public left the meeting at 7.22pm	

8.	Report of the Chairman – Councillor Wilkin. a) Ash die back presentation excellent. BW sent thank you. b) Appointment of portfolios to new Councillors – BW suggests that this may evolve over a period of time. c) Church Road gates & posts – a formal letter was sent to CBC advising them that the gates and posts had been erected, particularly taking account of the safety of parents and children parking at The Red Lion and walking to the school, a formal meeting has been arranged by CBC on Thursday with BW and EP being invited. Hopefully establish Ownership / Rights of Way and CBC will take appropriate action. Mike Dowd suggests that the posts are extremely dangerous, particularly considering the shape and position. BW will make this point at the meeting with CBC and request action taken as quickly as possible. Tony Goodeve asked who put in the path originally and who maintains it? This is not known and is part of the problem in establishing ownership, rights and responsibilities. d) School Crossing Site – Brief meeting attended by BW & MP with school Head Teacher (HT), Chair of Governors and PTFA reps. No immediate solution available. Councillor Delgado (CBC) met with HT in August and discussions are ongoing. PC await suggestions from Highways at CBC. MP happy that all parties are now engaging. 1 resident left at 7.54pm e) May Fair 2020 planning – 16th May. Three initial suggestions for the PC to consider include; n bombing –to decorate memorial railings with poppies. Agreed in principle. ad closure from The Red Lion to Swannells Wood – PC felt this would cause parking issues therefore not agreed. vertise on PC website – PC felt this was not necessary as easily found on Friends of Studham Church website, May Fair page following a simple search. f) Bedfordshire Day – Thursday 28th November 2019 would the PC like to mark the occasion? Possibly we could fly a county flag, if we don't have one but possibly should consider buying one. CS to investigate, the day and date could be promoted in The Link. g) Emergency Plan -has been passed on by ex-councillor, Melissa Newland. BW has updated and completed. The document has to be formally approved by CBC prior to circulation to emergency services. The PC website will contain a note to explain it is in place and document held by CBC. h) Attended planning training workshop (CBC) with Cllr. Smith, giving an overview of planning procedure. Allocation of Section 106 monies was explained, MP suggested this is why a Parish Plan is important. i) Police & Crime Commissioner meeting attended along with EP. Police believe drug dealing within Bedfordshire is worth approx. £200 million annually and is a very professionally run business.	CS
9.	Report of the Vice-Chairman – Councillor Poyner. a) To approve the minutes of the planning meeting held on 18th September 2019. The minutes were adjusted to accept that Alan Wright was present then signed as an accurate record. b) <i>New applications to be considered:</i> ● <u>CB/19/02781/FULL</u> – Palos Verdes, Valley Road, Studham. LU6 2NN Pitched roof dormers to front and rear to extend loft conversion and ground floor internal alterations. The PC were disappointed that no 'existing' plan was included which made it difficult to determine exactly what is being altered. Provided no windows overlook any of the neighbouring properties the PC are confident that CBC will determine appropriately. ● <u>CB/19/02721/FULL</u> – 240 Dunstable Road, Studham. LU6 2QJ Proposed new detached dwelling with new vehicular access. PC have no material issues with design of proposal in respect of the accommodation but do have concerns regarding the access onto Dunstable Road. The Councillors requested any costs incurred for alterations required to public footpath be absorbed by the developer. Noted Japanese Knotweed reported at this location, assurance required that this has been eradicated in a professional manner. ● <u>CB/19/02306/FULL</u> – Vicarage Cottage, Valley Road, Studham. LU6 2NN Installation of solar panels on outbuilding adjacent to garage. No concerns from PC confident that CBC will determine appropriately. c) <i>Other planning matters.</i>	

	- Neighbourhood Plan, - Mike Dowd advised that Tom Price (CBC) has raised an issue with site survey, Locality would prefer delay until Local Plan is ready. Any area washed over with green belt is affected by this delay, not just Studham and several other parishes are in the same position. Mike Dowd advised that a Local Development Order would give PC authority to approve planning applications, if they so wished. MP feels we do already have a lot of layers of protection. MD left the meeting at 8.30pm - O2 Mast – Hope they will submit planning application by end of year and be on site by Q2 next year. Initially with 2 providers, to include Vodaphone, with expectation to expand to a third or fourth. - Longyards – No updates for either front or rear - Clements End Farm - Still with CBC for a decision. - Planning consultant has requested a meeting with PC regarding 106 -126 Dunstable Road. Scheduled for 12th November to ascertain their proposal. - Leighton Buzzard Road – A large single dwelling proposal which the PC felt acceptable has been rejected by CBC. MP to investigate further. - Valley View still no update since called in. d) Other matters - Church Road Corner – see above Item 8. - Village Hall Floor Replacement – meeting held 13th September with Village Hall representatives, immediate floor replacement issue is being put out to tender by consultant engineer. - SC Lunch – summary sheet of events has now been produced. Event to be held 4th December. 3 members of the public left the meeting.	
10.	Report of Councillor Shute. a) GS will chase Gardener regarding the Meads footpath and what work is outstanding. b) Request chase up gulley clean near Hedgeside. CS to follow up. c) Salt bin in Woodland Rise – the recently sited yellow one has been replaced with a black one, but no invoice has yet been received. Suggest we contact the resident responsible for the original damage and request payment. Chris Morrell advised he cleared up behind the workmen who sited the bin and in doing so noted an exposed water pipe, possibly fire hydrant, cover damaged. CS to follow up with fire service. d) Requested approval of expenditure on winter planting, £100 approved.	GS CS CS
11.	Report of Councillor Smith. a) Sports & Social Club – Over 3 years club been run by committee but now looking to employ a steward. b) Playing Fields – Bark still to go in. c) Light repair along Dunstable Road as reported previously is in hand. d) Speed sign – pole has rotted, needs replacing, will happen in time. e) Manhole covers Dunstable Road – keep on pursuing this matter. f) AW advised that Woodland Rise moss needs attention. CS advised that it should be on the 5 year plan. It was noted that this is also a problem in Swannells Wood, Write formally to CBC. g) Chris Morrell advised that he has cleaned 216 signs, removed a number of fly posters and damaged signs. A huge thank you was given from the PC. h) Neighbourhood Watch sign in Oakway needs to be re fixed. i) CS dressed a window for St Mary's Church Harvest festival.	Cler
12.	Report of Councillor Wright. a) Website now up & running, couple of sets of minutes missing. It was agreed to publish 2018 & 2019 documents. AW to request cost involved to include a search facility which might be useful. b) Clerk requested to send last 3 years, audited & I&E accounts to be uploaded. c) Defibrillator – nothing to report.	Cler
13.	Correspondence. d) St Mary the Virgin, Parish Church. Request for financial support in maintaining the church yard. Following discussion, it was agreed to offer £500 provided it is at least one year since the last contribution.	Cler

	e) UK Power networks – Have asked whether the PC in the future would prefer the trees on Byslips Road to just be trimmed or pollarded. It was agreed trim only but request they consider burying cables to prevent these issues in future.	
14.	Accounts for Payment. A request for payment of accounts relating to September 2019 (Period 6) was presented and approved for payment.	
15.	Budget Statement Period 6 The budget statement and bank reconciliation were presented and approved as an accurate account of the current financial position.	
16.	Report of the Clerk. a) Suggested a donation to The Parish Link be made, this was approved for October payment. Councillors' expenses are usually paid October /November, it was agreed for payment in October.	
17.	Review ongoing actions list. No comments.	
18.	Items for the next agenda / Parish link. a) Parish Plan – to table ideas for consideration. b) Parish Link Report to include – New Website, Ancestry software available free of charge at Dunstable Library, Bedfordshire Day, Senior Citizens Lunch, Thanks to Chris Morrell and Local Milk delivery. c) Christmas hospitality.	
	Date and time of future meetings. Monday 4 th November 2019 @ 7pm Monday 2 nd December 2019 @ 6pm	
		Meeting Closed at 10.20 pm